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**AMNESTY
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18 May 2021

President Gertler and Dean Brunnée
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Dear President Gertler and Dean Brunnée:

We write to you on behalf of both Amnesty International Canada and Amnesty International's Crisis Response Programme to regretfully inform you that we are, with immediate effect, pausing our relationship with the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and its International Human Rights Law Program (IHRP). We are taking this step in support of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Council's decision to censure the University of Toronto.

Amnesty International has, through its Digital Verification Corps (DVC), a now more than four-year partnership with the IHRP. The DVC is an award-winning, flagship programme within the Crisis Response Programme at Amnesty International's International Secretariat. It trains students from seven universities across the globe, including the University of Toronto, on the process and practice of open source research for human rights advocacy and accountability. The IHRP became a DVC partner in 2017 and has successfully contributed to a wide range of Amnesty research.

Like the CAUT, we are greatly concerned about the sequence of events that led to the Faculty of Law's decision not to appoint Dr Valentina Azarova as IHRP Director. Having read the report by retired Supreme Court of Canada Thomas Cromwell, we are unable to take at face value the claim that the hire was frozen solely due to immigration issues, rather than external influence from a major university donor critical of Dr Azarova's academic work on Israel and Palestine.

We regret that we have been placed in a position to suspend our relationship with the University of Toronto, the Faculty of Law, and the IHRP until such time as the CAUT censure has been lifted and a sustainable roadmap for the future of the IHRP has been put in place.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Mariner
Director, Crisis Response
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